



Dear Neighbor,

Over the past year I have received a tremendous amount of correspondence from citizens across the entire 53rd District in regards to Indiana's property tax situation. As you know, the main focus of this session was property tax reform, and I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the property tax legislation that was recently passed.

We passed House Enrolled Act 1001 at the end of session, marking the largest property tax cut in state history. This plan will result in immediate property tax relief on a state-wide average of 25 percent for all property taxpayers, providing almost \$900 million of additional property tax relief in 2008. HEA 1001 provides circuit-breaker protection for all classes of taxpayers and will be phased in completely by 2010 at 1 percent for homesteads, 2 percent for agricultural and rental property, and 3 percent for business property. In addition, HEA 1001 includes added protections for seniors, disabled and low-income Hoosiers.

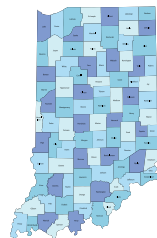
Another important provision in HEA 1001 places controls on local spending. To allow citizens to become more involved in local government decisions that will impact their property tax bills, HEA 1001 requires a referendum on certain capital building projects, including schools.

Some of the greatest concerns with this property tax reform package have focused on decrease in funding for schools and local governments. Education and public safety are obviously valuable resources for our communities, and HEA 1001 included provisions to make sure these services will not be crippled.

While HEA 1001 is not perfect, it is a huge step to restructuring the tax system and moving away from our reliance on property taxes. I truly believe this plan would have looked much different if it weren't for Hoosiers like yourself that took the time to voice your opinion. This is a great example of the type of positive change that is possible when citizens become involved in the legislative process. Ultimately though, the appetite to use property taxes must be reduced. I will continue to work on lowering property taxes in a fair and equitable manner.

Sincerely,

*Bob Cherry*  
Bob Cherry  
State Representative



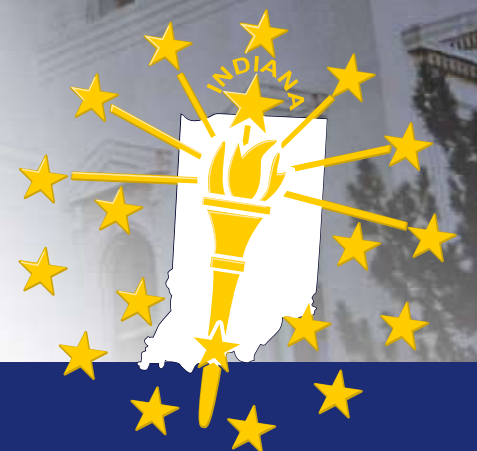
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Bob Cherry**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 53  
200 W. Washington St • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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# HOOSIERS *demanded* *property tax* REFORM.

State Rep.  
**BOB CHERRY**  
*delivered.*







# Immediate Relief. PERMANENT Reform.

The General Assembly's property tax plan, outlined by Gov. Daniels and the House Republicans' Standards for Success, created the largest property tax cut in state history. The plan offers Hoosier taxpayers immediate relief and the promise of permanent reform.

## Help for Hoosier homeowners.

- Homeowners will see \$620 million in immediate relief for 2008.
- \$1 billion has been removed from property tax levies.
- Referenda empower voters to control or allow spending.
- \$140 million of relief is planned for 2009, and \$80 million of relief in 2010.

## Help for all Hoosier property-tax payers.

- The plan cuts now and forwards the process to cap property taxes forever through a constitutional guarantee of permanent caps of 1 percent of assessed value for homesteads, 2 percent for rental and agricultural properties and 3 percent for all others.
- The plan closes loopholes that allowed more government spending.

## Help for local governments.

- At the county level, the costs of four child-welfare levies, juvenile incarceration and health care for the indigent are removed from property taxes. The state picks up these costs.
- At the municipal level, it removes from property taxes the remaining pre-1977 police and fire pensions, and it includes support for police and fire services. These costs are covered by the state.

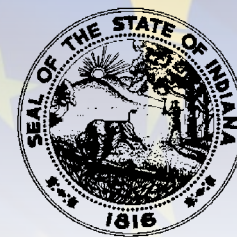
## Help for Hoosier schools.

- The plan removes school operations and special education preschool costs from property taxes. The state will pick up these costs.
- It also includes \$120 million in circuit-breaker relief and increases tuition reserve fund money to \$400 million.

## Help for low-income Hoosiers.

- The plan includes an overall decrease in taxes for many low-income taxpayers, renters, low-income senior-citizen homeowners and the disabled.

*Well before the session began...we wanted the best results for Hoosier taxpayers, not Hoosier tax-spenders.*



State Representative  
**Bob Cherry**

I have always valued your input, thoughts, concerns and ideas. Here is some important contact information to reach me directly, as well as other important contact information you may find helpful:

## Contact Representative Cherry

Statehouse Office:	800-382-9841
E-mail Address:	<a href="mailto:h53@iga.IN.gov">h53@iga.IN.gov</a>
Web site:	<a href="http://www.in.gov/h53">www.in.gov/h53</a>
Mailing Address:	200 W. Washington St. Room 401-4 Indianapolis, IN 46204

## Important Numbers

State Information Center	800-457-8283
Federal Information Center	800-688-9889
Indiana House	800-382-9841
Indiana Senate	800-382-9467
Gov. Mitch Daniels	317-232-4567
Sec. of State Todd Rokita	317-232-6531

## Illegal IMMIGRATION Update

Immigration is another issue that came to the forefront this past session; not just immigration in general, but illegal immigration. The issue was embodied in Senate Bill 335, which was authored by Sen. Mike Delph (R-Carmel) and proceeded out of the Senate by a vote of 37-11. In the House, the language was amended into Senate Bill 345, which passed out on a vote of 66-33. The bill proceeded to conference committee, where it then died.

The illegal immigration language was modeled after a bill that passed into law in Arizona last year. In speaking with legislative leaders in Arizona, implementation of the law is proceeding well and effectively. Arizona has begun to use E-Verify, an easy-to-use and free program run by the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration to check identification for all new state employees hired after Jan. 1, 2008, as have thousands of other private employers. The law has been continuously upheld in court, most recently as the ACLU has tried and failed to get a temporary injunction in the 9th Circuit Court. I will continue to monitor the progress of the bill as we decide on what approach to take in the future.

Illegal immigration has been a tremendous cost to local government. It adds costs to services, such as schools, with English as a second language classes, and other government services that require a translator. We use our money in more ways, but the pie where the money is coming from isn't getting any larger.

I continue to be frustrated with the federal government and its unwillingness to address what, constitutionally, is one of the few issues it is responsible for. It has fumbled on this issue for decades. President Reagan attempted to address the issue, with mixed results. The states have been patient and are now saying, "Enough is enough." We must understand that the states not only have the inherent authority to enforce federal law, but our citizens have a constitutional right to expect our laws to be enforced. We must continue to pursue a balanced approach that, hopefully, will also send a message to Washington.